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Neighborhood
House

The Voice

The newspaper of Neighborhood House — visit our website at www.voicenewspaper.org

First round of Metro bus cuts takes effect Sept. 27

BY KING COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION

On Sept. 27, King County Metro Transit will cut 28 bus routes and reduce or change another 13 routes because there is not enough funding to continue the current level of transit service.

Unfortunately, riders can expect more crowding on buses during heavy travel times and might have to travel farther to reach a bus route that works for them.

The Metro website has suggested route options for riders who will lose bus service, <http://metro.kingcounty.gov/am/future/>.

As part of the regular service change process, additional specific information will be available in Metro's trip planner and other systems starting early this month. Riders can also call 206-263-9770 or email community.relations@kingcounty.gov if they have additional questions or comments.

Sept. 27 service changes

- **28 deleted routes:** 7X, 19, 47, 48X, 61, 62, 139, 152, 161, 173, 202, 203, 205X, 209, 210, 211X, 213, 215, 243, 250, 260, 265, 280, 306X, DART routes 909, 919, 927, 935.

- **13 revised routes:** 27*, 30*, 200*, 204, 208, 212*, 236*, 238*, 249*,

312X, 331, DART routes 903, 931.

(* – potentially revised in two phases)

Metro also will make some changes to six routes that are not part of the service reduction plan. These routes are 24, 48, 49, 122, 178, and 201.

Three routes that were proposed for deletion will continue with funding provided by the City of Seattle. These are night owl routes 82, 83, and 84.

The King County Council also approved the reduction of more bus service in February 2015. Decisions about those specific route changes will be made in September. The King County Council also will determine future Metro transit service levels this fall as it considers the County's 2015-16 budget.

The bus cuts in September are to Metro's lowest-performing routes. They either duplicate other service; run in peak commute periods only but don't carry enough riders or travel fast enough compared to regular all-day service, or travel in a corridor that meets or exceeds desired transit service levels.

NewHolly youths turn into food waste educators

BY EBERLEY WEDLAKE
Seattle Housing Authority

NH Anyone who has walked through NewHolly this summer might have seen them: green wheeled carts, colorful flyers and stacks of light brown pails— all commandeered by 11 teenagers (most of them NewHolly residents). They were headed for NewHolly Seattle Housing Authority households, which are expected to start composting by the end of summer.

Between July 22 and Aug. 15, the youth hit the streets, knocking on doors and talking with their neighbors about what goes in the food waste container (all food, food-soiled paper and yard debris), what can't (everything else – especially plastic bags), and how to collect food scraps at home. Each family then received a green food waste cart along with informational flyers, compostable bag samples and an in-kitchen compost pail to collect food scraps before tossing them in the green cart outside.

The youth did not start with door-to-door outreach right away. Instead, they spent the first few weeks of the program becoming experts in waste. They toured Seattle Public Utilities' South Transfer Station, Allied Waste's Recycling Facility, and Green Plate Special, an urban garden where they harvested giant cabbages and radishes and saw firsthand how compost is used. Through these experiences, the students gained an intricate knowledge of what happens to waste and the reasons to keep it out of landfills. This prepared them for conducting door-to-door conversations and to create an educational video featuring NewHolly staff and residents. The video details how to collect food scraps at home as well as at NewHolly Gathering Hall events, where the youth led compost bingo games.

More people besides the youth were involved in the summer program. SHA's NewHolly Management partnered with Seattle Parks and Recreation, who in turn recruited two college mentors to lead the youth under the Student Team Employment Program (STEP). Additionally, SHA's Recycling and Waste Reduction Coordinator designed and implemented the waste-related curriculum, while the NewHolly maintenance team helped manage supplies.



PHOTO BY EBERLEY WEDLAKE

Zakia, Sadia and Farhiyo have volunteered at NewHolly this summer, helping educate residents on how to be more efficient recyclers. They're shown conducting an audit of waste generated at a NewHolly Gathering Hall event. They estimated that 85 percent of what was thrown away could have been recycled or composted. Consequently, all Gathering Hall event organizers will have access to recycling and composting at their events.

Then there were the NewHolly families who made the switch from throwing food in the garbage to making sure it ended up in their new green food waste containers, destined to become nutrient-rich compost for local parks and gardens.

The outcomes from the program have been positive. Preliminary data shows the percentage of contamination (items that don't belong in the food waste) at a satisfactory 20%, which is lower than levels found after previous outreach done without the youth.

As early as this fall, a similar program may be underway at an additional SHA community where food waste access (required by City ordinance) will soon be made available. Both resident youth and agency partners will stand to benefit from this continued collaboration.

SHA Community Meetings on Rent Policy

Seattle Housing Authority will host five public meetings this month about "Stepping Forward," where staff will answer questions about the proposal and ask for resident input. For additional information see <http://www.seattlehousing.org> and Facebook. For more details about "Stepping Forward," see story on page 3.

Date	Time	Location
Sept. 16	6-8:30 p.m.	Meadowbrook Community Center 10517 35th Ave. NE
Sept. 17	6-8:30 p.m.	Yesler Community Center 917 E Yesler Way
Sept. 22	6-8:30 p.m.	Rainier Community Center 4600 38th Ave. South
Sept. 23	6-8:30 p.m.	NewHolly Gathering Hall 7054 32nd Ave. South
Sept. 29	6-8:30 p.m.	High Point Community Center 6920 34th Ave. SW

Neighborhood House
Jesse Epstein Building
905 Spruce Street
Seattle, WA 98104

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Do you know where this photo was taken?
Enter our summertime contest to win a free bag of produce, page 6.



Health Notes



A column devoted to your well-being

School-based clinics play an important role for busy families

BY COLIN WALKER, MHA
Neighborcare Health

It's the week before school starts and your 16-year-old daughter casually mentions that she needs to have a physical in order to play her fall sport. Why not consider a school-based health center?

Back to school is a busy time for families. The school-based health centers (SBHCs) are the ideal place for youth to get care; they are located at the school so there is no travel involved, making scheduling much easier. Students seem to feel the SBHC is 'their place.' As one student said, "When I walk into the health center, people smile at me. That doesn't always happen in middle school."

What is a school-based health center (SBHC)?

A SBHC is a health clinic in the school. Providers at SBHCs are professional licensed mental health, medical and dental practitioners and have a special interest in working with school-aged youth.

In Seattle Public Schools there is a SBHC in every public high school, a majority of the middle schools and eight elementary schools. The centers are partially funded by the City of Seattle Families and Education Levy. Health care organizations including Neighborcare Health, Group Health Cooperative and Seattle Children's Hospital serve as the sponsor of the SBHCs, and staff, manage and operate the sites.

Who can use the health center?

All students enrolled at a school are eligible to use the services of a school-based health center as long as they are registered. The parent or guardian just needs to complete the registration form included in the school's first-day packet. Registration forms are also available in the SBHC and often on the clinic's or school's website.

Bailey Gatzert's School-Based Health Center

When school starts this year, hundreds of students will register for the Bailey Gatzert School-Based Health Center, one of 12 school-based centers operated by Neighborcare Health in Seattle.

Students are seen during the school year for medical and mental health services, including vaccines, well-child checks and preventive health visits. All students at Bailey Gatzert are also screened each year for dental health. Neighborcare Health's school-based dental program then follows up with these students and families to help coordinate access to a dental clinic.

The Voice

Editor
Nancy Gardner
206-461-8430, ext. 227
nancyg@nhwa.org

Reporters
Mieesha Mohr

The Voice, the newspaper of Neighborhood House, is published monthly with the support of Seattle Housing Authority. Neighborhood House helps diverse communities of people with limited resources attain their goals for self-sufficiency, financial independence and community building. The Voice contributes to that mission by providing low-income people, immigrants, refugees and other concerned parties with timely, relevant news. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the staff, Neighborhood House or Seattle Housing Authority. We welcome articles and tips from the community and reserve the right to edit all submissions. The Voice is published online at www.nhwa.org and at www.seattlehousing.org.

Be Safe

Back to school safety tips

BY KYLIE HELMUTH
Seattle Neighborhood Group

The rainy days are back, which means summer is quickly coming to an end, and time for children to go back to school. We would like to remind pedestrians and drivers to be cautious whenever a new school year starts. Students should be careful when walking to and from school. Drivers should also be aware that school is back in session, and to watch out for more students out walking. Closer to fall, there will be less daylight and children will be out early in the morning when they're more difficult to see.

Here are some tips for walkers from the Seattle Police Department:

- Never cross the street against a red light, even if you do not see any traffic coming.
- Pay special attention to all traffic signals and crossing guards.
- Look up and not down at your phone while walking.
- Plan a safe walking route to and from the school or bus stop. Choose the most direct way with the fewest street crossings and if possible, with intersections that have traffic controls.
- Use the buddy system, and walk with a friend or family member.
- Remind your children about strangers. A stranger is someone who is not known by the child. A friend of parents, a friend of the child's friend or a neighbor can be a stranger. A stranger can be a good guy or bad guy.



SEATTLE NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP

- Wear bright colors and reflective clothing so that drivers can see you easier.
- Advise children to arrive early for buses, stay out of the street, and to wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before approaching the street.

Tips for drivers:

- Watch for children entering the street from behind buses or running to catch the bus.
- Drive slowly when approaching children walking or biking near the street.
- Watch your speed when entering a school zone.
- Keep your eyes out for children around schools and bus stops.
- When driving to your children's school, drop off and pick up as close to the school as possible. Do not leave until they are safely on school grounds.
- Create a family 'code word' if someone other than a parent is going to pick up a child at school unexpectedly, that person should repeat the 'code word' first before the child agrees to leave the safety of the school grounds.

Kylie Helmuth (kylie@sngi.org, 206-323-9666) is a project coordinator at Seattle Neighborhood Group. Please feel free to contact Kylie for crime prevention information or help with your safety and security concerns.

Letter to the editor:

Tenants Union of Washington responds to SHA's "Stepping Forward"

The Seattle Housing Authority plans its largest rent increase in its history with "Stepping Forward," which is two steps back.

SHA has announced its "Stepping Forward" rent reform proposal that will apply to "workable" SHA residents in all of its housing programs. Under this proposal, even if you have a drop in your income, rents would continue to rise over a six-year period. After the fifth year, for a two-or-three-bedroom unit, tenants would need to earn almost \$20 per hour to afford their housing. If a tenant cannot raise their income, the rent will not be lowered, and tenants may face eviction or displacement. Even with a fully implemented municipal \$15 minimum wage this proposal will make public housing unaffordable for full-time minimum wage workers.

Starting in mid-September SHA is holding public meetings to receive feedback on their proposal. This is tenants only chance to influence the outcome of this policy. Tenants will need to ask themselves: Is it realistic to require them to earn almost \$20 per hour to afford SHA housing? If you are an SHA tenant interested in meeting with other SHA tenants to discuss these concerns, contact the Tenants Union of Washington State. We can be reached by contacting Denechia Powell at denechiap@tenantsunion.org, or 206-722-6848 x 102.

JONATHAN GRANT
Executive Director, Tenants Union of Washington State

First Hill's 'unbreakable' tree

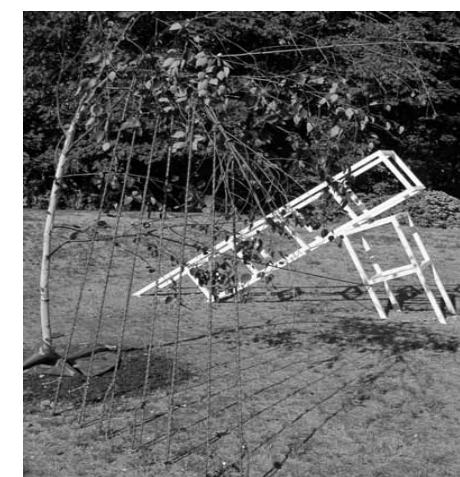


PHOTO BY NANCY GARDNER

Located between James and Jefferson Streets on 9th Avenue, artist Zack Bent has applied his own unique micro-managed and over-stretched supports to a tree for visual and metaphorical effect. His "Bent Tree Won't Break" is part of Art Interruptions 2014, an interactive installation of exhibits on view throughout First Hill until November.

By City of Seattle

Temporary artworks intended to elicit surprise, beauty or humor are dotted through First Hill via the Art Interruptions series produced by the Seattle Office of Arts & Culture.

The artworks, intended to last for eight to ten weeks, appear on city sidewalks and in parks, offering a brief interruption in viewers' days. Ten artists have created temporary installations, most of which are on view through October, though dates vary depending on the type of artwork.



SEATTLE HOUSING NEWS

SEPTEMBER
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News and information about Seattle's neighborhoods — visit our website at www.voicenewspaper.org

Lofton discusses rent policy changes at RAC meeting

By NANCY GARDNER
The Voice Editor

Attendees of the Aug. 13 Resident Action Council meeting heard details of "Stepping Forward," the proposed rent structure designed to help residents get living wage jobs while adjusting the way Seattle Housing Authority calculates rent for workable households.

Andrew Lofton, executive director of SHA, presented the plan and took questions from about 30 residents who attended the monthly meeting.

Under the proposed rent policy, SHA would establish fixed rent levels, or steps, that would be based on apartment size and length of time a resident remains in public housing or holds a voucher. Lofton explained that there would be no time limits for public housing or holding a voucher and that rents would remain significantly below market. The plan would only apply to workable households, or those with at least one person between 24 and 61 who does not have a disability that prevents them from working. Households with no workable adults would continue to pay rent based on their income. There are about

4,600 workable households in Seattle public housing that would be affected by "Stepping Forward," which would take four years to fully implement if adopted. All workable residents would go through a workforce assessment and would receive more training and education to help them achieve higher-paying jobs. Lofton said the end goal is to enable residents to achieve economic self-sufficiency and help shorten the time people spend waiting to get into public housing.

According to SHA, there are more than 9,000 households on public housing wait lists who each spend roughly four years waiting to find a place to live.

"We've asked ourselves, how can we serve more people and not turn our backs on those waiting for assistance?" Lofton said. "We know the aspiration and motivations to be self-sufficient are there, and SHA believes it can provide the training that will get people into living-wage jobs. We'll help provide the support people need to become more successful and marketable in the workplace and make more than minimum wage jobs."

Also attending the meeting was Jonathan Grant, executive director of the Ten-

ants Union of Washington State, who characterized SHA's proposed plan as "hugely flawed." Grant argued that incomes won't rise fast enough to keep up with the rent increases, and that "Stepping Forward" would have a disproportionate impact on immigrant households.

Olive Ridge resident Rachael Harding said she's concerned that the newly proposed rent policy will adversely affect her and her 19-year-old son.

Harding, who is a single mother, said the plan seems hastily planned and poorly orchestrated.

"How are they going to allow for people to return to school under this new plan?" she asked. "They're doing this just like they've instituted other policies, like the no-smoking one--without thinking outside the box and just pulling it out of the blue."

Lofton said that SHA has considered about a dozen different policies, and that the initial planning stages for "Stepping Forward" began in May 2013.

September Resident Action Council meeting to focus on "Stepping Forward"

The Resident Action Council will hold its next meeting from 1-3 p.m. on Sept. 10 in the Jefferson Terrace meeting room at 800 Jefferson Street.

RAC president Kristin O'Donnell says the group will discuss if the proposed rent policy is realistic and fair. Other issues expected to be covered include if there will be enough assistance for Seattle Housing Authority residents who have difficulty finding higher paying work, and what happens in a recession when jobs are scarce.

Additionally, RAC members will discuss what will happen to SHA residents under the proposed policy who have limited 'workability' but who are not completely disabled.

All residents of Seattle Housing Authority's Low Income Public Housing are welcome to attend. RAC reimburses bus fare and carpool mileage.

Yesler's renovated Baldwin apartments re-open

The building marks the first completed project in the Yesler Terrace redevelopment plan

By SVEN KOEHLER
Seattle Housing Authority

If a building could smile, then you would see a big grin across the brick facade of the Baldwin Apartments. The renovation completed this August transformed the previously derelict structure into a very desirable home for 15 residents.

The smiles are mirrored by people around the building, too. Ricky Johnson, a new tenant, loves the beautiful interiors of his new home. Juan Medina, who headed the construction project, is proud of his team's accomplishment. Jonathan Shibuya, part of the property management's leasing team, is pleased to be able to offer residents the first truly accessible apartments at Yesler Terrace.

And Anne Fiske-Zuniga, who was at helm of the development team when the project started in 2012 and is now Seattle Housing Authority's Deputy Executive Director, is thrilled to deliver the first replacement housing of the Yesler Terrace redevelopment project.

The three-story brick building was originally built in 1918 as a walk-up with more than 30 tiny, substandard apartments. The total renovation involved rebuilding all the interior walls to add seismic reinforcing and an elevator. The former apartments were combined to offer 15 larger living spaces with full-size kitchens and bathtubs. One unit now has fully accessible features that meet stringent Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS).

Medina's favorite feature might be the way natural light fills the apartments from the high ceilings and big windows typical of older construction. "I am especially proud of the way we were able to keep the building's window openings large with custom-sized windows," he said. The added insulation makes for deep window sills that add to the interior appeal.



PHOTO BY SVEN KOEHLER

In August, Bonnie Johnson was one of the first residents to move back to her old neighborhood at Yesler Terrace after being relocated during renovations. Her new home at The Baldwin Apartments is one of the first 15 units of replacement housing created during the project.

Ricky Johnson has the distinction of being the first to relocate from Yesler Terrace in 2013, and is the first to return.

He says he likes the natural light, too, and also really appreciates the seismic upgrades.

"I was just getting out of homelessness and living at the Morrison in Pioneer Square during the big earthquake (known as the Nisqually earthquake of 2001, Johnson said. "I was rattled around and freaked out by the cracks all along my ceiling."

As part of the commitment to residents who moved to make way for the current construction at Yesler Terrace, SHA is offering priority for returning residents to choose units at the redevelopment, as well as assistance moving back. Johnson said he

appreciated the year—and-a-half he lived at Center Park, about two miles from Yesler Terrace. But he is excited to return to his old neighborhood.

"I am glad to be back closer to exercise facilities I used at Seattle University. That place really helped me get back my mental health," he said of his recovery from illness after a head injury.

The Baldwin is located at the corner of Fir Street and 13th Ave., just one stop on the new streetcar line from Johnson's old home in the heart of Yesler Terrace. The Housing Authority also provides affordable housing at the Ritz Apartments on the opposite end of 13th Ave., and historic Washington Hall is right across Fir Street.

Content guide

Don't see your neighborhood section? Consult the guide below to find the logos that correspond to your community.



High Point Herald



New Holly Notes



Rainier Vista News



Yesler Happenings

Youth explore the working world of Yesler Terrace redevelopment

BY MIEESHA MOHR
Special to The Voice

YT What will people find hidden in the walls of Seattle's Washington Hall 50 years from now? Posters and recorded interviews of Jimi Hendrix and Billie Holiday. The materials are just some of the items in a time capsule assembled by 18-year-old Yesler Terrace resident Abdulwahab Haji-Eda for his internship with Historic Seattle. Haji-Eda is one of five participants in the Yesler Terrace Summer Youth Engagement Program (SYEP), a paid internship opportunity sponsored by the Seattle Housing Authority.

Since 2007, Seattle Housing has coordinated opportunities for Yesler Terrace youth to learn about redevelopment in their neighborhoods. The current program matches young adults with employers engaged in redevelopment. The interns gain job skills and explore different careers while the employers benefit from the young residents' unique perspective. Employers for the 2014 program are SMR Architect, Retail Lockbox, Andersen Construction, Historic Seattle, and Seattle Housing Authority's Development Department.

Historic Seattle is renovating Washington Hall, a 106-year-old building on the corner of E Fir Street and 14th Avenue. Restoration of the hall will ensure its continued accessibility and use for the neighborhood as a community gathering and performing arts space. Hendrix, Holiday and many other famous musicians once performed there. The time capsule Haji-Eda is putting together is just one way of preserving that rich cultural history.

"I've enjoyed working with such positive people," said Haji-Eda. "They've helped me improve my communications skills."

Kyree McGhee, 17, an intern working with SMR Architects, has been learning

how to read architectural plans and understand how apartments are designed to accommodate residents who use a wheel chair.

"I really appreciate all this internship program has taught me," said McGhee. "It has made me become more interested in landscape architecture." He said he might even consider a similar career path once he graduates from Garfield High School.

Participants Asha Abdi, 20, and Marquise Brown, 16, can walk to work. Abdi is learning how to be organized and detail oriented while working in the mail room at Retail Lockbox. Marquise Brown puts on his hard hat and boots when working with Andersen Construction, contractor for Yesler Terrace's first new building at 1105 E Fir St.

Interns work at their job sites between Monday and Thursday for six hours a day. On Fridays, they gather to talk about their work experiences with each other, attend workshops on job-readiness and learn more about Yesler Terrace redevelopment. Seattle Housing staff hope the participants will have fun on their various assignments but also develop their interpersonal and communication skills and benefit from networking opportunities that could help them in their professional and personal lives.

Mieesha Mohr is a Summer Youth Engagement Program intern with Seattle Housing's Development Department. A June graduate of Garfield High, she will attend Seattle University in the fall to study social work. During her internship, Mohr learned about the redevelopment plan and the long and thoughtful process that went into it. She has gained various office skills such as creating spreadsheets in Microsoft Excel and filing as well as writing this article for publication in The Voice and Yesler Terrace blog.



SYEP participants Mieesha Mohr and Abdulwahab Haji-Eda work on glass mosaics during a visit to the studio of Mauricio Robalino. Artwork created by Robalino and several community members will be incorporated into the 10th Avenue S Hillclimb.



Abdulwahab Haji-Eda, Kyree McGhee, Alex Vallandry (Seattle Neighborhood Group), Mieesha Mohr, and Asha Abdi tour Seattle Housing's most recent development at Lake City Court to learn about environmental design features and special accommodations for residents of all ages.

Photos by Kathlyn Paananen.

If you are between the ages 16-22, live in Yesler Terrace, or recently relocated from Yesler Terrace and are interested in applying for an internship for Summer 2015, please contact Cicily Nordness of Seattle Housing Authority at (206) 239-1655 or cicily.nordness@seattlehousing.org

SHA seeks public comment on Moving to Work 2015 budget

BY SEATTLE HOUSING AUTHORITY

Residents and community members are invited to comment on Seattle Housing Authority's 2015 budget and Moving to Work (MTW) annual plan. The budget and plan outline the agency's priorities and resources for the coming year.

New activities under consideration in the 2015 MTW Plan include a pilot to provide a self-sufficiency assessment for newly admitted households and households experiencing a decrease in income, and a one-year Seattle residency requirement before households with Housing Choice Vouchers can use them to move outside of the community. Additional MTW activities under consideration include streamlining the income verification processes.

The 2015 budget summary and plan will be available for comment beginning Sept. 3 until the end of the month. Comments may be submitted via the website: www.

seattlehousing.org, by mail: SHA, P.O. Box 19028, Seattle, 98109, or by phone (206) 615-3576.

SHA will also present the plan and budget at a public hearing at 3:00 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 25 at its office at 190 Queen Anne Ave N.

The deadline for comments is Oct. 2. After that, SHA staff will inform the Board of Commissioners of the comments received and will take those comments into consideration. This may result in modifications to the plan or budget.

At the Board of Commissioners meeting in mid-October, staff will ask the Board to adopt the budget and plan for 2015. Following Board adoption, the plan will be submitted to HUD for approval.

Mystery Garden Contest: Where was this picture taken?



Do you know where this photo was taken? Here's a clue: It's somewhere in one of Seattle Housing Authority's properties. If you can identify the location and are one of the first two readers to contact The Voice's editor, Nancy Gardner, with the correct description, you'll win a free bag of produce courtesy of the Seattle P-Patch Market Garden.

Call or email Nancy with your guesses, (206) 461-8430, ext. 227 or nancyg@nhwa.org. Congratulations to Tim Van Liew, who won our August contest.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHAEL MAGGS / WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

About The Voice

The Voice is a monthly newspaper published by Neighborhood House with financial support from Seattle Housing Authority. The Voice is developed and edited by Neighborhood House with help from Seattle Housing residents and staff. It strives to provide a forum for objective news and information of interest to low-income people and those living in Seattle Housing communities.

If you'd like to submit an article, or if you have a question about anything you've read in this publication, please contact Editor Nancy Gardner at 206-461-8430, ext. 227 or by e-mail at nancyg@nhwa.org.

All submissions are subject to editing for accuracy, style and length.



Money Matters

Helping you take charge of your finances

How life events can affect taxes

Editor's note:

The region's first Financial Empowerment Center, (FEC) operated by Neighborhood House at Rainier Vista, opened in April and can help with financial counseling and affordable banking. The main center is located at 4431 Martin Luther King Jr. Way S., and is open Monday to Friday. There are six other FEC satellite centers throughout the city. For locations or more information, call 206-923-6555 or email FEC@nhwa.org.

BY JASON CLOPPER
Financial Empowerment Center

As the summer draws to a close, so do many of the things that accompany it like great weather, swimming adventures, and endless weddings. Taking advantage of the great weather and scenic settings, many couples naturally plan on having their special day during the warm summer months. One thing many happy couples tend to forget is that getting married can have a big impact on their taxes, especially if both partners are working. Typically when two partners have their income combined it pushes them up into a higher tax bracket. This means that they won't have been withholding enough out of their paychecks to cover their tax bill when tax time comes. This comes as a shock to many newly married couples. Sometimes they can even miss out on tax credits they used to qualify for as single individuals.

Significant life events such as getting married, having a child, moving in with a significant other or family can all affect your tax return, sometimes in negative ways we do not expect. For example, a single parent who moves in to their partner's home may not be able to claim their child as a

dependent any more if their partner makes more money. If the partner is not a recognized legal parent of the child, then no one qualifies for the Earned Income Tax Credit, a huge financial boost to low-income families. If adjustments are made to the parent's tax withholding at their job, they may end up owing money.

Similarly, getting divorced or separating from a significant other also impacts taxes. This is even more compelling when children are involved. Who can or should claim a child for tax purposes is an important conversation couples should have. If an individual is used to being qualified and apply for the Earned Income Tax Credit or Additional Child Tax Credit, (both of which can add thousands of dollars to one's income), to no longer being eligible, this can be detrimental to the budget!

When these big life changes happen it is important to plan accordingly. If you think you will be getting a smaller refund or might owe money, then you should increase the tax withholding out of your paycheck to cover it. If you think you are going to get more money back from the IRS, then decrease your tax withholding so you get more out of each paycheck. All of this can be done by filling out a W-4 form and turning it into your employer.

But you are not alone in all of this. If you are unsure about how a life event could affect your taxes you can schedule an appointment down at the Financial Empowerment Center and we can help guide you through it. Give us a call at 206-923-6555 or go to <http://www.nhwa.org/financialempowerment> to set up an appointment.

Jason Clopper is the tax program coordinator at the FEC.

New, enhanced computer lab facilities coming to SHA residents

BY NANCY GARDNER
The Voice Editor

Three Seattle Housing Authority properties will receive new computer equipment and improvements thanks to support from the City of Seattle's Technology Matching Fund. Denny Terrace and Jefferson Terrace will apply approximately \$30,000 to update hardware and software currently used in the computer labs. Additional classes in other languages and drop-in access will also be offered to residents in the coming months. Equipment to outfit a new computer lab along with classes for residents to learn how to use computers will be created with the \$16,000 awarded to Ross Manor.

In all, the City of Seattle awarded 23 organizations a total of \$320,000 in Technology Matching Funds in August. These projects were selected from Seattle's Technology Advisory Board from more than 67 applicants and will contribute a projected \$685,711 in community matching resources, more than double the city's investment.

"While access to technology has increased for many, there is still a significant gap in the access to and use of technology in Seattle," said Mayor Ed Murray. "Technology skills are necessary for success in the 21st century and these funds play a critical role in preparing our residents."

"These funds play an important role in leveling the playing field. They help our most vulnerable residents use technology in innovative and meaningful ways, including seniors, at risk youth, homeless women and children, immigrants and refugees, and people with disabilities," said Councilmember Bruce Harrell, chair of the Public Safety, Civil Rights and Technology Committee.



PHOTO BY NANCY GARDNER

The computer lab at Jefferson Terrace is always at capacity, but thanks to a new grant, access to additional machines will allow more residents to use the facility. Additional instructional classes about using computers will be offered more frequently in languages other than English to accommodate this growing demand.

The money will support projects throughout the city to ensure more Seattleites have access to and proficiency using internet-based technologies.

The funds will support greater digital equity in Seattle. Several projects will help Seattle build a diverse technology workforce, by providing STEM education programs for youth of color and computer and applications training to immigrants and low-income adults.

FREE Dental, Vision & Medical Care



Seattle/King County Clinic with Remote Area Medical®
Thursday, October 23 — Sunday, October 26, 2014
KeyArena at Seattle Center

401 1st Ave. North, Seattle, WA 98109

About the Clinic

- ALL WELCOME, patients DO NOT need ID or proof of citizenship
- Free parking (1st Ave. N. & Thomas St. Parking Garage)
- No advanced registration, FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED
- Admission numbers distributed at 3:30am each day
- Licensed healthcare professionals, both male and female providers available

All Services are FREE

- DENTAL:** Cleanings, fillings, extractions, x-rays
- VISION:** Comprehensive eye exams and free prescription eyeglasses made on site. If available, bring your current eyeglass prescription (within 1 year) to skip the eye exam
- MEDICAL:** Physical exams, mammograms, Pap smears, flu vaccines, foot care, wound care, chiropractic care, acupuncture and screenings for diabetes, hypertension, hepatitis, asthma and more

More Information: SEATTLECENTER.ORG/PATIENTS

Contact: SKCClinic@seattle.gov
206.684.7200



How Do I Get Into the Clinic?

- Advanced registration not available, first come, first served.
- Both the parking garage (1st Ave N) and the building (NW Rooms) where people line up to get admission numbers open at 12 Midnight each day [see seattlecenter.org/patients for a map and details].
- Limited admission numbers, for that day only, will be distributed starting at 3:30am.
- The first patients will be admitted to the clinic by number starting at 5:30am.

How Should I Prepare for the Clinic?

Please be advised that this will be a long day and you are responsible for your needs.

- **ALL WELCOME**, patients DO NOT need identification or proof of citizenship.
- Bring some food and beverages including breakfast, lunch, snacks and water.
- Wear comfortable clothing.
- Minors need to be accompanied by a parent or a legal guardian.
- Leave pets at home with the exception of service animals.
- When your number is called and you enter KeyArena, you will stay inside until you have received all the services you are seeking for the day. If you leave KeyArena, you cannot return that day. Be prepared for a long day at the clinic.

Will Someone Speak My Language?

- Interpretation services will be available to assist patients throughout the clinic.

What Happens Once I Enter the Clinic?

- Because of the large number of patients, **you can only seek care in either vision or dental, in addition to medical care, in one day.**
- Patients can wait in line for an admission number on another day for additional services.
- We will collect basic personal information including name, age, height, weight and medical history.
- In each service area (dental, vision or medical) you will wait your turn in line and will be seen on a first come, first served basis.

NOTE: Narcotics will not be used or prescribed. Authorization for medical marijuana will not be provided.

Host Community

AARP • AllScan 3D • American Red Cross • Bastyr University • Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation • Brooks Sports, Inc. • Ceres Roasting Company • Coca-Cola • Group Health • Hepatitis Education Project • Hispanic Dental Association • InDemand Interpreting • King County • King County Nurses Association • Medical Teams International • Optometric Physicians of WA • Patterson Dental • Philips • Pineapple Hospitality • Public Health - Seattle & King County • Ripe Catering • Seattle Animal Shelter • Seattle Cancer Care Alliance • Seattle Center • Seattle Center Foundation • Seattle Department of Neighborhoods • Seattle Fire Department • Seattle Human Services • Seattle Monorail Services • Seattle Office of Immigrant & Refugee Affairs • Seattle Parks and Recreation • Seattle Police Department • Seattle Public Utilities • Seattle-King County Dental Society • Swedish • United Way of King County • UW Medicine • UW School of Dentistry • UW School of Public Health • Virginia Mason • VOSH Northwest • WA Academy of Eye Physicians & Surgeons • WA Academy of General Dentistry • WA Association of Naturopathic Physicians • WA Dental Service Foundation • WA Global Health Alliance • WA Healthcare Access Alliance • WA State Dental Association • WA State Dental Hygienists' Association • WA State Nurses Association • WA State Society of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons

(As of 7.31.14)

COMMUNITY RESOURCES



Healthy Cooking and Nutrition Classes for Seniors and Caregivers!

Thursdays from 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

September 11 – October 16

Esperanza Apartments

6940 37th Ave. S. Seattle (Holly Park)

Bus # 8 & Light rail Othello

Office: 206-760-0202



Simple

- Learn basic cooking skills
- Learn how to prepare quick and delicious meals

Healthy

- Led by registered dietitians
- Learn how to choose foods for various health conditions such as diabetes and heart disease

Affordable

- Recipe ingredients are very affordable
- Every class includes a Mix & Match recipe that lets you choose which ingredients to use

Free Food!

- Sample two recipes we make in class each week!
- Raffle! You could win 1 of the 10 grocery bags we hand out at every class full of the ingredients to make one of the recipes!

Presented by Chicken Soup Brigade and generously funded through a grant from AARP Foundation and in collaboration with Neighborhood House & Esperanza Apartments.

For more information, call (206) 957-1649 or email pots&plans@csbrigade.org
Annie Edwards (206) 261-2684 or Jenny Ap (206)372-8511/jennya@nhwa.org



YOUTHBUILD

YouthBuild is a nationally certified, 6 month construction pre-apprenticeship designed to help young adults earn their GED or High School Diploma and get a job or enroll in college. Motivated students who graduate 'with honors' will earn preferred entry into apprenticeships and liveable-wage careers.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Must be 18–24 yrs old
- Low-income (we will help you with documentation for this)
- Out-of-school at some point and seeking Diploma (GED or HSD)
- Legally authorized to work in the United States

Eligibility Documentation
should be submitted
as early as possible!

Final Deadline: 9/24/14

Pre-Apprentices will receive:

- Secondary and Post-Secondary Educational Support
- Paid Work Experience and Training in Construction
- Professional Development and Leadership Training
- Employment and Education Placement Assistance
- Case Management and Follow-Up Support

1. State ID
2. Social Security Card
3. Proof of Low-Income
4. Proof of School Status

Interested? You must attend ONE of our Orientations:

CASAS Appraisal administered during Orientation to determine Reading and Math levels.
You will need to return the following day at 9:00am for the actual CASAS Tests.

- Wednesday, September 3 @ 10:00 – 11:30 am
- Wednesday, September 10 @ 10:00 – 11:30 am
- Wednesday, September 17 @ 10:00 – 11:30 am

South Seattle College / Georgetown Campus
6737 Corson Ave. Seattle, WA 98108
Building B Room 118

East Marginal Way + Corson Ave. in Georgetown Bus # 124, 131, 132

If you are eligible and interested, you will be invited to our Mental Toughness Challenge:

Mental Toughness Tryouts: 8:45 am – 4 pm Mon. Sept 29 – Fri. Oct 10, 2014.

206.276.2140 YouthBuild@YouthCare.org

FREE TAX PREPARATION

At the Financial Empowerment Center

The Financial Empowerment Center, in partnership with United Way of King County, is offering tax preparation services outside of the tax season starting August 27th, 2014. Clients will need to schedule an appointment in order to be seen.

WHEN: We Serve Clients

Starting August 27th, 2014 on Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Services will be available from late April to December. From January to April 15 clients will be referred to a United Way of King County Free Tax Campaign location.

WHERE: We're Located

Financial Empowerment Center based in the Rainier Vista neighborhood at:
4431 Martin Luther King Jr Way S, Seattle, WA

SERVICES: Provided

- Answering basic tax questions
- Preparing individual tax returns

ELIGIBILITY: Requirements

- Adjusted Gross Income less than \$52,000
- Must not have sold stock or have other capital gains or losses
- Must not have any rental property
- Must not have losses from operating a small business (We can prepare tax returns for those who have sole proprietor or small business income provided that they do not have expenses over \$10,000)

If you are unsure whether or not a client is eligible, please contact Jason at JasonC@nhwa.org.

LIMITATIONS:

We cannot help those who want to dispute or contest an IRS letter or finding. Please refer them to the IRS Taxpayer Advocate Service or UW Tax Clinic.
We cannot prepare partnership, S or C corporation tax returns.
We cannot prepare state tax returns.
We cannot help with Washington B & O tax.

What to BRING:

- Photo ID
- Social Security Card for them, their spouse, and any dependents
- Income documents and tax forms: W-2s, 1099s, etc.*
- If possible, a copy of the last tax return they filed

*if a client does not have access to them, they can get them from the IRS webpage (www.irs.gov/Individuals/Get-Transcript) or from an IRS office (www.irs.gov/uac>Contact-My-Local-Office-in-Washington)

For Appointments:
Call (206) 923-6555 or go to <http://NHWA.FullSlate.com>



Free Workshop Affordable Homeownership Opportunities



Fulfill the Dream

Saturday, September 13, 2014

**If you are interested in
buying a home and not
sure that you can afford
—then
YOU SHOULD ATTEND
THIS WORKSHOP
Childcare and lunch will
be provided**

**Time: 11:00 a.m.–3:00p.m.
Place: Highpoint
Neighborhood House
6400 Sylvan Way SW
Seattle, WA 98126
Tel.: 206-588-4318 or
206-588-4325**



OUR COMMUNITIES

STORIES FROM OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

Hard work, prudent budgeting yield dividends for High Point resident

BY NANCY GARDNER
The Voice Editor

HP **YT** At 25, Xinyu Wang truly knows the value of hard work. In the eight years he's been in the United States, Wang has kept true to his natural inclination to be budget-conscious and frugal. He completed his bachelor's degree in political science at the University of Washington in four years while working two part-time jobs. This allowed him to keep his student loans in the bank, and graduate in the black—something very few college students manage to do. And he taught himself the English language quickly on his own through exposure to native-English speakers while working toward his degree.

At age 18, Wang's father told him he'd need to move out and support himself, so he worked with Seattle Housing Authority and Neighborhood House to apply for low income housing, and spent about two-and-a-half years living in Yesler Terrace while going to school. He said he lived frugally and kept his job as a bus boy at a restaurant in Seattle's Chinatown for six years, sometimes only eating one meal each day. He did this, he said, so that he could return his loans with no burden of debt on his shoulders when he graduated.

A native of Qiqihar, China, today Wang works for the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services where he is a financial services specialist and helps consult others with their financial problems. His plans include eventually giving back to Seattle's Yesler Terrace community, which he credits with instilling in him a sense of community and volunteerism. He dreams

of paying this forward by working in the public sector as either an ambassador or politician, where he could serve the public in some way, he said.

"I believe if you work hard you can achieve anything," Wang said. "If you work hard, it's sometimes not always possible to achieve everything, but if you don't work hard, nothing is possible."

In May, Wang lent his presentation skills to his old neighborhood (he has since moved to High Point because of construction that has displaced him and some of his neighbors) by addressing a large crowd of community leaders and guests at a ceremony to re-dedicate the historic Yesler Plant, now known as the Epstein Opportunity Center.

Larry Hill, a job placement specialist with Seattle Housing Authority, calls Wang remarkable.

"I first met Xinyu when he was living in Yesler Terrace," Hill says. "I was amazed at his professional demeanor and also by the fact that he had \$10,000 in unspent student loans in the bank, gathering interest, which he paid off before the due date. I would not be surprised to see Xinyu become a Seattle City Council Member within the next five or six years," he added.

Wang said he's proud of becoming self-sufficient and will continue helping others to escape the poverty he experienced when he first moved to this country. He said that he's looking forward to home ownership, ideally in the High Point area, and for which he admits he will need to borrow money.

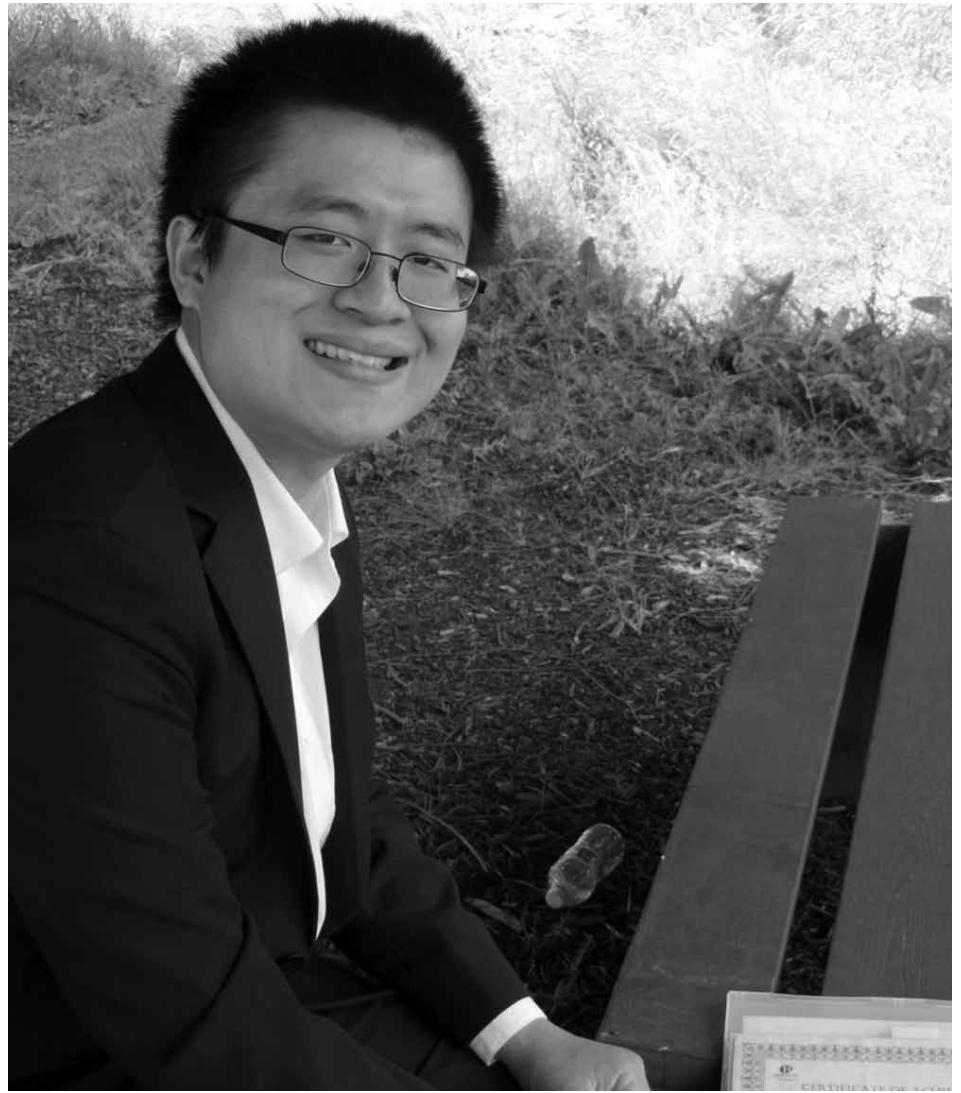


PHOTO BY NANCY GARDNER

Xinyu Wang, a High Point resident and immigrant from China, has made home ownership his priority. The 25-year-old has held multiple jobs while earning his bachelor's degree so he can live debt-free and focus on his dream of owning his own home. He aims to repay the people who've helped him along his journey in the United States by working in the public sector and continuing his volunteer activities.

Out and about on 'Night Out'

Residents and neighbors of University House enjoy the annual "Night Out" celebration Aug. 5. The national event helps raise crime prevention awareness by strengthening and connecting community members with each other. Photo by Matt Anderson.



Seattle's Neighborhood Matching Fund available to support back-to-school activities

Program awards up to \$1,000 for neighborhood-initiated projects



Is your school or neighborhood planning an activity to celebrate the fall "back-to-school" season? If so, your group may qualify for support from Seattle Department of Neighborhoods Neighborhood Matching Fund program. Its Small Sparks Fund provides matching dollars of up to \$1,000 for neighborhood-initiated projects that promote community engagement.

Activities could include a back-to-school barbecue, autumn festival, or recruitment for parent organizations, but the ideas are endless. The application is online at seattle.gov/neighborhoods/nmf/webapplication.htm, and the deadline to apply is at least six weeks before your activity. To learn more about the Small Sparks Fund call 206-733-9916 or visit seattle.gov/neighborhoods/nmf/smallsparks.htm.

Neighborhood House has partnered with Seattle Parks and Recreation to provide two community centers, Yesler and High Point, with more accessible and affordable fitness programs as part of their Be Active Together pilot project. This promotion will run for 11 weeks and is available to SHA residents. This partnership makes it possible to offer some programs for under \$2, as part of the Be Active Together pilot project.

Register online, by phone or in person. No scholarship application required. Assistance in Somali, Vietnamese and Spanish is available (limited hours). Visit your local community center to register and ask about scholarships.

Yesler Community Center

917 E Yesler Way
(206) 386-1245

High Point Community Center

6920 34th Ave SW
(206) 684-7422

Women Only Zumba

Child care available for ages 3 and up*

Yesler: Wednesdays 5:30pm-6:30pm

High Point: Fridays 5:30pm-6:30pm

\$4.00/month (\$1 per class)

*Advance registration required for child care

Toddler Gym

High Point: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10am-2pm \$0.50 cents per visit

Yesler: Wednesdays 1-3pm \$0.30 cents per visit

Field trips for Ages 50 and older

Yesler: Arboretum and Japanese Garden Tour, October 21st \$0.70

Snoqualmie Falls

High Point: Puyallup Fair September 11th \$1.20

Outlet Mall/Casino October 16th \$1.20

Fitness Room (YCC)

\$0.30 per visit for SHA residents!
Exercise during building open hours!

Not available

Tai Chi Exercise (ages 50 and older)

\$4.00/quarter
Tuesdays 12:30pm

Not available